Children & Education:

* Married late but once married, reproduced rapidly- 6 or more kids before death
* Infant mortality high along with high rates of death during childbirth
  + Women died in childbirth & there was not enough medical knowledge and techniques.
  + One in 5 babies were sure to die, mostly in poorer areas.
* Enlightenment allowed:

1. Better medical practice

2. Better education-elementary school

3. Parental nurturing

Dangers of Pregnancy

* Risk of death in childbirth of 5-10%
  + Many babied died during or most likely to a year after due to dehydration and infectious disease.
* Died of blood loss and shock during birth
* Susceptible to infection due to unsanitary conditions
* Pregnancy= fear rather than joy
* Countryside:
  + Breast feed which allowed the child a better chance at survival but slowed down reproduction.
* Upper Class:
  + Though breast feeding was below them.
  + Hired wet nurses: a widespread and flourishing business in 18th century in which women were paid to breast feed others women’s babies.
  + Common in Northern France.

Wet Nurses

* Breast feeding decreased likelihood of pregnancy

-upper class women more births, rural women less

* Infant sent away for 1-2 years to be fed by someone else
* Nurses paid in 2 year payments
* Particularly popular in France
* Women in workforce didn’t nurse because no time for it

Dangers of Wet Nursing

* Traveling
* Lack of supervision at nurse’s home
* Sharing milk- spread germs

- “milk siblings”

* “killing nurses”
  + Wet nurses that collected two year payments and feed child for 3-4 months on average and then killed child. Then would get a new baby and another 2 year plan and then kill that child after 3-4 months. Nurses received more money and more kids because they would just kill the babies but keep money.
* Russian nurses- dirty rags
  + Mothers would drip rags in their breast milk so that they would just be able to suck on that all day. However, the mothers would not always wash them so it became easy for the rags to be cable of having germs, viruses, and diseases on them; which caused deaths.
* 35% dead before 1st birthday, 20% died before 10
* Reasons for wet nurse

1. century old tradition

2. many women in workforce

3. few alternatives to breast milk

4. Upper class thought less of it.

* Enlightened thinkers against wet nursing, contraception and masturbation. They thought it took away from the life of the country. You are taking away the chance of making your country better. Jean-Jacques R. thought masturbation was mental rape. He argued that it was the corrupting influence of society that led to such unnatural acts as masturbation and that humans living a simple life amidst nature would never do such things. If caught you could be punished with a death sentence. Boys at the time had to wear tight pants so they could not touch themselves through their pockets. & girls were not allowed to do things that caused them sensations that were close to masturabation.

Infanticide

* Abortion= no!
* Hid pregnancies 🡪 infanticide
  + Country side women would hide pregnancy and deliver it without anyone knowing and then would smuggle baby.
  + Overlaying- parents would take children to bed with them and roll over them while sleeping. Smuggle them. In Austria in 1748, it was made illegal to take children under 5 years old to bed.
* Punishable by death
* Infanticide Act of 1624- single women try to conceal death considered murder.
* Courts went from declaring guilty to trying to find proof of murder
* Seeing young women as victims rather than criminals

Foundlings

* Italy, Spain, and Portugal in 16th then to France and rest of Europe in 1670
* 1/3 of all Parisian kids admitted to foundlings
* Most single women but 1/3 poor couples
* Admitting 100,000 children per year
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